



SITUATIONAL INFORMATION REPORT FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Activity Alert

INDIANAPOLIS DIVISION

Approved for Release: 21 April 2020

SIR Number: SIR-00333143350

(U//FOUO) Increased Use of Aggressive Tactics by Anti-Government/Anti-Authoritarian Groups Since the Outbreak of COVID-19

SOURCE: (U) An officer of another law enforcement agency.

(U) FBI Comment: Potential criminality exhibited by certain members of a group(s) referenced herein does not negate nor is it a comment on the constitutional rights of the group itself or its members to exercise their rights under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The FBI does not investigate, collect, or maintain information on U.S. persons solely for the purpose of monitoring activities protected by the First Amendment.

(U//FOUO) This SIR is being disseminated to alert Indiana law enforcement and private sector partners to the potential public safety concerns regarding individuals who aggressively target law enforcement officers, National Guard service members, and hospital staff members in 2020 due to the heightened state of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

(U//FOUO) As of mid-April 2020, identified Anti-Government/Anti-Authoritarian groups were increasing their filming of Indiana law enforcement officers while in the performance of their duties in an effort to capture an embarrassing law enforcement response during the encounter. Anti-Government/Anti-Authoritarian groups planned to use these videos to demonstrate First Amendment violations in civil rights lawsuits. The use of these Anti-Government/Anti-Authoritarian group tactics outside of Indiana have led to physical altercations resulting in injuries and arrests.

(U) Warning: This is an information report, not finally evaluated intelligence. It is being shared for informational purposes but has not been fully evaluated, integrated with other information, interpreted or analyzed. Receiving agencies are requested not to take action based on this raw reporting without prior coordination with the FBI.

(U) Note: This product reflects the views of the INDIANAPOLIS Division.

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(U//FOUO) In addition to law enforcement officers, Anti-Government/Anti-Authoritarian groups were also using these tactics with designated essential workers during Indiana's COVID-19 stay-at-home order, including first responders, National Guard service members, bus station workers, and various hospital employees. In late March 2020, Anti-Government/Anti-Authoritarian groups encouraged followers to focus on local hospitals in an effort to prove the COVID-19 pandemic was a hoax. Group leaders specifically encouraged followers to openly confront hospital staff while filming and demand evidence of the pandemic.

(U//FOUO) Since the outbreak of COVID-19, Anti-Government/Anti-Authoritarian groups have conducted the following activities in Indiana:

- (U//FOUO) On 8 April 2020, three partially identified individuals filmed vehicles and occupants in line at a publicly known COVID-19 community-based testing site for first responders and law enforcement. When approached by a law enforcement officer, one of the individuals presented aggressive gestures and refused to talk to the officer.
- (U//FOUO) On 8 April 2020, three partially identified individuals filmed activity around the FBI Indianapolis main office.
- (U//FOUO) In April 2020, an individual using a police scanner arrived on the scene of an overdose call in Indianapolis and made comments about how the police were violating the patient's rights.
- (U//FOUO) In April 2020, an individual filmed an Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department officer at the IndyGo Julia Carson Transit Center.
- (U//FOUO) In March and April 2020, an individual filmed several encounters at multiple Indiana Army National Guard facilities in Indianapolis.
- (U//FOUO) In March 2020, three individuals were filming both jail and patrol officers doing their normal duties in Anderson, Indiana. The individuals acted aggressively towards the officers in an effort to solicit a negative response. Two of the individuals were from Massachusetts.

(U) FBI Comment: Individuals associated with these Anti-Government/Anti-Authoritarian groups are advocating for citizen journalism and testing constitutional rights, specifically First Amendment protected activity. Citizen Journalism is defined as journalism conducted by people who are not professional journalist but who disseminate information using websites, blogs or via social media. Associated individuals are known to confront law enforcement in an effort to incite a violation of their constitutional right(s). These Anti-Government/Anti-Authoritarian group's national activity generally focuses on law enforcement facilities, court houses, National Guard facilities, bus stations, hospitals, and any event that has a police presence.

(U) This report has been prepared by the INDIANAPOLIS Division of the FBI. Comments and queries may be addressed to the INDIANAPOLIS Division at 317-595-4000.

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Customer and Product Information

SIR Tracking ID: SIR-00333143350

Product Title: (U//FOUO) Increased Use of Aggressive Tactics by Anti-Government/Anti-Authoritarian Groups Since the Outbreak of COVID-19

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Customer Agency: _____

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- ___ 5. Strongly Agree
___ 4. Somewhat Agree
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- ☐ 2. Somewhat Disagree
- ☐ 1. Strongly Disagree

Comments (please use reverse or attach separate page if needed):

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